

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/617,509	CHEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andre' L. Jackson	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of February 7, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not disclose the arrangement of structural limitations as set forth in applicant's claims. In particular, the prior art does not disclose a hinge device including a fixture member secured to a first part, a first movable member pivotally coupled to a first pivot point of the fixture member and defining a slot track and a spring element. A second movable member is provided defining a first, second and third end. The first end lying on the spring element, the second end secured to a second part and the third end is pivotally coupled to a second pivot point of the fixture member. The first end of the second movable member moves along in the slot track transmitting the first movable member to pivot about the first pivot point of the fixture member when the second part pivots about the second pivot point of the fixture member causing an urging of the spring element between the first and second pivot points as the second part is pivoted to covers the first part. Conversely, the first end of the second movable member moves along the slot track toward the second part to release the spring element as the second part is pivoted to expos the first part.

Kondou et al is considered the closest prior art. Kondou et al discloses a hinge device useable with an image forming apparatus for pivotally connecting a copying machine (1) and an image scanner (2) of the apparatus, comprising a fixture member (10) secured on the copying machine of the apparatus; a first movable member (15) pivotally coupled to a first pivot point (16) of the fixture member and having thereon a track (29) and a pair of spring elements (17); and a second movable member (11) having a first end (11a, 11b) lying on the spring elements and movable along the track via a friction member (7), a second end (22) secured on the image

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scanner of the apparatus, and a third end (at 3) pivotally coupled to a second pivot point (13) of the fixture member such that the second movable member transmits the first movable member to pivot about the first pivot point of the fixture member when the image scanner of the apparatus is pivoted about the second pivot point of the fixture member, wherein the first end of the second movable member moves along the track of the first movable member toward the copying machine of the apparatus to urge against the spring elements when the image scanner of the apparatus is pivoted to cover the copying machine of the apparatus, and the first end of the second movable member moves along the track of the first movable member toward the image scanner of the apparatus to release the spring elements when the image scanner of the apparatus is pivoted to expose the copying machine of the apparatus.

However, Kondou et al fails to disclose the specific arrangement of the structural limitations as set forth in applicant's claims as presented. Specifically, Kondou et al fails to disclose or suggest a first movable member pivotally coupled to a first pivot point of the fixture member and defining a slot track. Secondly, a first end of the second movable member moves along in the slot track transmitting the first movable member to pivot about the first pivot point of the fixture member when the second part pivots about the second pivot point of the fixture member causing an urging of the spring element between the first and second pivot points. Here, Kondou et al fails to disclose the specific position of the spring element as claimed.

None of the other prior art references made of record whether combine or taken singly cure the deficiencies of Kondou et al. Consequently, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest every limitation as set forth in applicant's claims, thus the Examiner believes applicant's

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claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and the general prior art relative to lift hinges.

CONCLUSION

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' L. Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7067. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (10 am - 6 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ALJ

André L. Jackson
Patent Examiner
AU 3677


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER